

THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE IS WAXED GROSS

Acts 28:26-31

Paul -- prison in Rome. 60 yrs old. In ministry for about 30 yrs

Nero -- 25 yrs old ...murderous man.

Rome: Population: 2 million within 10 miles radius...Half of population slaves.

People poverty stricken...Professional men, manufacturers ... slaves

Acts 28:23...*expounded and testified the kingdom of God*, ...material from Romans and Hebrews. Theme: kingdom of God.

Acts 28:24 *Some believed*: convinced of truth. *Some believed not*: not convinced of truth.

Acts 28:25 *After that Paul had spoken one word*. One last shot ...Is 6:9-10, a passage of condemnation & final judgment of God toward Jews.

Is 6:6-10; Mt 13:14; Mk 4:12; Lk 8:10; Jn 12:40, Acts 28:26-27; Rom 11:8

Acts 28:26 *Saying, Go ... Go* to Jews ...You will hear what I say but not understand. You will observe but won't perceive the meaning

Hearing: physically hear; *And shall not understand*: not comprehend meaning; *Seeing ye shall see*. physical eyesight ; *not perceive*: not understand meaning. Won't impact life.

Acts 28:27 *heart*: center of being; *Waxed gross* to thicken, callous, make stupid, fat; *dull*: heavy, with difficulty; spiritual perception.

Adam Clarke: ...*half asleep while the salvation of God is preached...*

...*eyes have they closed*; eyes of mind. Spiritual eyes; *Closed*: shut down any and all ability to see and understand spiritual truth.

Adam Clarke: *they have totally and obstinately resisted the truth of God, and shut their eyes against the light.*

2 Cor 4:4

See with their eyes: personal knowledge *Hear with their ears*: to attend to; to obediently hear... *Understand with their heart*: to put it all together in their heart. Have truth connect with heart. *Converted*: be turned to God. *Heal them*. Cure them of spiritual disease.

Description of unconverted:

- ❖ Heart insensitive to things of God.
- ❖ No desire to listen to Biblical truth..

- ❖ No spiritual perception of Biblical truth.
- ❖ No new nature
- ❖ No spiritual healing

Acts 28:28 Salvation/spiritual available to Gentiles, as well. They will accept and believe truth concerning Christ.

FF Bruce: *In Acts as in the Pauline letters, while the order of preaching the gospel is 'to the Jew first and also to the Greek' (Rom. 1:16), the order of its reception is 'by the Gentile first.'*

Acts 13:46; 18:6; 19:8-10

Acts 28:28

F.H.Chase, *The narrative reaches a solemn climax – rejection on the one side, unchecked success and hope on the other.*

Acts 28:29 *Great reasoning among themselves:* Lots of discussion & debate.

Acts 28:30 *In his own hired house*—found place & rented it. Phil. 4:18 ... *received all that came in unto him*, Even though a prisoner, allowed visitors

Individuals with Paul in Rome: Luke & Aristarchus, Tychicus-- sent to Ephesus with letter, Timothy, Epaphroditus, Onesimus--runaway slave, Mark, Justus, Epaphras--prayer-warrior, Demas, & others.

Acts 28:31 *Preaching the kingdom of God:* proclaiming, heralding the rule of God in the hearts of men; *Teaching those things* ... discipling; *Confidence*—freedom of spirit, openly, boldly, without any reservations.

While in Rome Paul wrote at least 6 letters:

- Ephesians, April A.D. 61
- 2 Timothy, May A.D. 61
- Philippians, A.D. 62
- Colossians, A.D. 62
- Philemon, A.D. 62
- Hebrews, spring of A.D. 63

no man forbidding him. Last Greek word in the Acts. *Akolutos*--Without hindrance.

G.C.Morgan: *In proportion as we are so, the one word forever describing the Church will be the word with which this book ends, unhindered!*